AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 23.

1-11. **(Cancelled)**

12. **(Original)** A method for producing a pharmaceutical formulation for controlled release of an interferon, the method comprising:

dissolving (a) a biodegradable polymer and (b) a conjugate of an interferon and a hydrophilic polymer in a solvent to form a monophase, and

forming microparticles or nanoparticles comprising the biodegradable polymer encapsulating the conjugate.

13. **(Original)** The method of claim 12, wherein the interferon is selected from the group consisting of alpha-interferon, beta-interferon, and gamma-interferon.

14. **(Previously presented)** A pharmaceutical formulation for controlled release of an interferon, the formulation comprising a biodegradable polymer in combination with a conjugate of an interferon and a hydrophilic polymer, wherein the biodegradable polymer comprises a derivatized biodegradable polymer containing hydrophilic and hydrophobic regions, and wherein the interferon is selected from the group consisting of α-interferon, β-interferon, and γ-interferon.

15. **(Original)** The formulation of claim 14, wherein the hydrophilic region comprises polyethylene glycol.

16. **(Original)** The formulation of claim 14, wherein the hydrophobic region comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyhydroxy acids, polylactic acids, polyglycolic acids, and copolymers thereof.

17-18. **(Cancelled)**

19. **(Original)** A pharmaceutical formulation for controlled release of a bioactive molecule, the formulation comprising a biodegradable polymer in combination with a conjugate of a bioactive molecule and a hydrophilic polymer, wherein the formulation is in the form of microparticles encapsulating the conjugate, the microparticles having a diameter predominantly between 20 and 100 um.

20. **(Original)** The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 19, wherein the bioactive molecule is a protein.

21-22. **(Cancelled)**

23. **(Cancelled)** ~~The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 19, wherein said bioactive molecule is selected from the group consisting of α-interferon, β-interferon, γ-interferon, erythropoietins, granulocyte colony stimulating factor, granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor, interleukin-1, interleukin-2, interleukin-3, interleukin-12, asparaginase, adenosine deaminase, insulin, glucagon-like peptides, ACTH, glucagon, somatostatin, somatotropin, thymosin, parathyroid hormone, pigmentary hormones, somatomedin, leuteinizing hormone, chorionic gonadotropin, hypothalmic releasing factors, antidiuretic hormones, thyroid stimulating hormone, endorphins, enkephalins, biphalin, prolactin, monoclonal antibodies, polyclonal antibodies, antisense oligonucleotides, aptamers, therapeutic genes, heparin low molecular and weight heparin.~~

24. **(Previously presented)** The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 19, wherein the bioactive molecule is insulin, α-interferon, β-interferon, or γ-interferon.